Fall in copper price

276. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Copper prices have shown a steady decline during the last few months;

(b) if so. what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be its likely effect on ex port of the commodity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MMTC, the canalising agency for imports of copper, makes imports based on the average price of London Metal Exchange (LME). The indigenous pro ducer is allowed to sell the metal at the ruling MMTC price. The changes in the selling price of Copper in India are thus related to the international (LME) prices. A fall in the average monthly LME prices over the last few months has led to a fall in sale prices of Copper in the country.

(c) India does not export Copper metal since domestic demand exceeds supply. There is, therefore, no question of there being any effect of fall in Copper prices over exports of this commodity.

Arrears in labour courts

277. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of cases pending in various labour courts in the country as on 31st October, 1985;

(b) what are the reasons for the arrears; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) 1134 cases and 3073 applications are pending before Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts as on 1-1-85. The Central Government have s»t up two additional Industrial Tribunalcua-Labour Courts at Chandigarh and Kan-pur and have laid down norms for disposal of disputes and progress is monitored. The Industrial Disputes Act. 1947 has been amended so as to provide time bound disposal of disputes. The Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957 have been amended to provide time frame for different stages for disposal of disputes. The State Governments)Union Territories set up Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals for cases and applications in the State Sphere. As per available information. 190086 cases were pending in the States! Union Territories other than Jammu and Kashmir, before the Industrial Tribunal| Labour Courts as on 31-3-1984.

Export potential of Maniri Cars

278. SHRI KALPNATH RAI. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export potential of Maruti Cars has been examined by Government;

(b) whether any negotiation has been concluded with any country in the matter; and

(c) if SO, what i« the result of the ne gotiation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH); (a) to (c) Maruti Udyog Ltd. are exploring the potential for export of their vehicles to neighbouring and East European countries. I No contracts have been finalised so far